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February 2002

MONTANA ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

UNEMPLOYMENT BY COUNTY

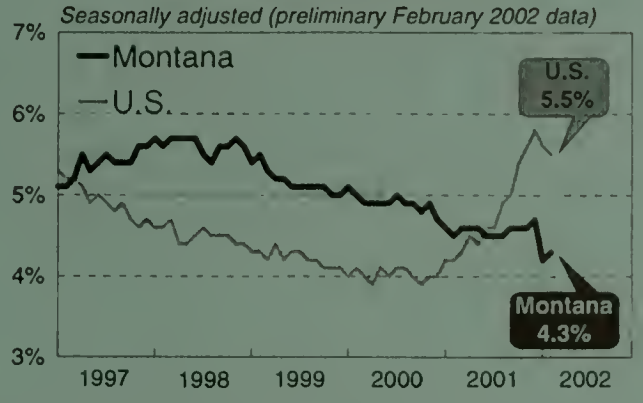
Not seasonally adjusted

	Feb 2001	Feb 2002*
UNITED STATES	4.6%	6.1%
MONTANA	5.8%	5.6%
Cascade **	5.8%	5.0%
Missoula **	4.4%	4.4%
Yellowstone **	4.1%	4.2%
Beaverhead	4.4%	4.2%
Big Horn	16.8%	17.6%
Blaine	9.4%	7.7%
Broadwater	6.3%	5.4%
Carbon	6.2%	6.1%
Carter	1.8%	2.1%
Chouteau	3.5%	3.4%
Custer	5.9%	4.5%
Daniels	3.7%	3.7%
Dawson	3.6%	3.3%
Deer Lodge	8.5%	7.2%
Fallon	3.6%	3.9%
Fergus	9.6%	6.6%
Flathead	7.6%	7.3%
Gallatin	2.6%	3.0%
Garfield	4.7%	3.9%
Glacier	13.6%	11.1%
Golden Valley	5.4%	7.0%
Granite	11.3%	8.0%
Hill	5.1%	3.9%
Jefferson	5.2%	5.8%
Judith Basin	7.0%	8.0%
Lake	11.7%	10.8%
Lewis & Clark	4.8%	5.2%
Liberty	3.2%	3.6%
Lincoln	14.3%	13.1%
McCone	3.6%	2.7%
Madison	5.8%	4.7%
Meagher	6.0%	7.1%
Mineral	11.7%	10.3%
Musselshell	8.2%	9.7%
Park	6.0%	5.7%
Petroleum	5.9%	5.1%
Phillips	6.8%	6.9%
Pondera	5.2%	5.3%
Powder River	2.8%	4.9%
Powell	5.3%	6.4%
Prairie	8.6%	7.0%
Ravalli	6.6%	6.5%
Richland	5.8%	6.3%
Roosevelt	9.0%	8.3%
Rosebud	9.2%	6.8%
Sanders	11.8%	12.4%
Sheridan	4.8%	5.2%
Silver Bow	6.4%	6.0%
Stillwater	4.2%	4.3%
Sweet Grass	4.4%	4.4%
Teton	4.5%	4.3%
Toole	3.0%	3.0%
Treasure	6.2%	7.4%
Valley	5.0%	5.4%
Wheatland	4.4%	6.7%
Wibaux	4.0%	6.4%

**February 2002 rate preliminary*
*** Cascade=Great Falls MSA*
Missoula= Missoula MSA
Yellowstone=Billings MSA

FEBRUARY 2002 HIGHLIGHTS

Unemployment



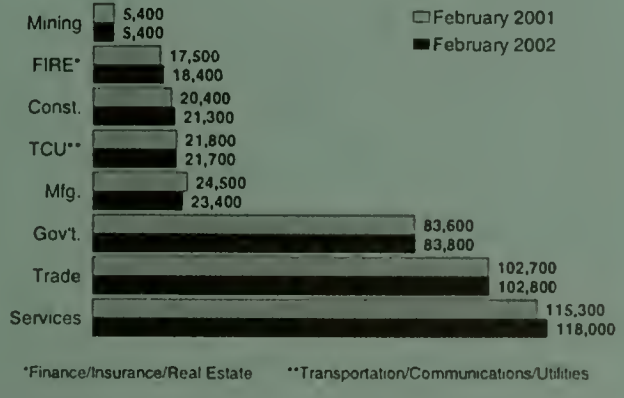
Montana's unemployment rate of 4.3 percent in February was 1.2 percentage points below the national rate.

Earnings

Average weekly earnings for Montana's private sector workers were up 3.9 percent over the year in February, while U.S. inflation was up 1.1 percent.

Nonag Payroll Employment

Montana Jobs (Seasonally Adjusted)



Montana's nonagricultural payroll employment was up 0.9 percent over the year. Services was up 2,700 jobs. Manufacturing was down 1,100 jobs.

2000 CENSUS

Median Age

The 2000 Census lists the following median age (meaning half are older and half are younger) information for Montana and the nation:

Median age, both sexes
- Montana: 37.5
- U.S.: 35.3

Median age, male
- Montana: 36.6
- U.S.: 34.0

Median age, female
- Montana: 38.5
- U.S.: 36.5

For more Census information, visit the Montana Census and Economic Information Center website at http://ceic.commerce.state.mt.us.

ONLINE AT

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TDD 406-444-0532

http://rad.dli.state.mt.us/

MONTANA'S LARGEST PRIVATE EMPLOYERS

Listed alphabetically below are the 50 private Montana employers* reporting the most employees during the pay period including Sept. 12, 2001 according to unemployment insurance (UI) records:

- Albertson's
- Benefis Healthcare
- Better Business Systems of Montana
- Blue Cross & Blue Shield Montana
- Bozeman Deaconess Health Services
- Cenex Harvest States Cooperatives
- Columbia Falls Aluminum
- Community Medical Center
- Costco Wholesale
- Deaconess Billings Clinic
- Dillard's
- Express Personnel Services
- First Interstate Bank
- Four B's Restaurants
- Glacier Bancorp
- Glacier Park Inc.
- Great Falls Clinic
- Hardee's
- Homecare Services
- J C Penney
- Jore
- JTL Group
- KMart
- Kalispell Regional Hospital
- Lantis Enterprises
- Lee Enterprises
- Louisiana Pacific
- Montana Power
- National Electronics Warranty
- Northern Montana Hospital
- Peak Medical Montana Operations
- Plum Creek Northwest Lumber
- PP & L of Montana
- Qwest
- Safeway
- Semitool
- Smith's Food & Drug
- St. James Community Hospital
- St. Patrick Hospital
- St. Peter's Hospital
- St. Vincent Hospital
- Stillwater Mining
- Stimson Lumber
- Stone Container
- Stream Services
- Target
- Town Pump
- United Parcel Service
- Wal-Mart
- Wells Fargo Bank Montana

Includes ONLY private industry employers subject to unemployment insurance. Railroads and city, county, state and federal government agencies (including public schools and universities) are excluded.

HOW EMPLOYMENT IS DETERMINED

- Employment is determined by the number of UI-covered workers who earned wages during the pay period which includes the 12th of the month.
- Some employers may look larger than usual if they had high temporary or seasonal employment during a targeted pay period.

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